COMMANDERS DIGEST

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LBJ Pledges More Troops To Vietnam If Requested

"Whatever is needed is going to be done" to aid American troops in Vietnam, President Johnson declared at his press conference in the White House Friday, Nov. 4.

The President told newsmen Gen. William C. Westmoreland made it clear that "we would need additional manpower."

And "When, as and if he asks for additional manpower, we will supply it," Mr. Johnson asserted.

The Chief Executive told reporters he thought it was "bad for you to speculate" on "how many hundreds of thousands are going to be needed when General Westmoreland himself doesn't know. But . . . whatever is needed is going to be done. We are not going to leave those men there asking for support and not giving it to them."

Strength in RVN Reasonable Now

The President said he believes "we have reasonable strength there now. I think we will add to it from time to time. I would hope, of course, that the adversary would see the utter futility of continuing this confrontation and would agree to go from the battlefield to the conference room.

"But until he does, the men there are going to give a good account of themselves. . . . If they need some more to help them, they will be sent."

In referring to USAF bombing of the enemy, the President said he hoped that talk about stopping the bombing "would have some reference to the bombing that they did on Independence Day" when General Westmoreland was to attend a ceremony and "they tried to bomb the place where he was supposed to sit.

"I would hope that some of this 'stopping the bombing' agitation would be directed to the folks that throw the bombs at our embassies in Saigon.

Proposals Must Be Two-Way

"If they (the enemy) want us to stop bombing," said Mr. Johnson, "we ought to see what they are willing to stop. We will be glad to consider anyone's proposals that represent two-way streets.

"We don't want to talk about just half of it, though."

OLD-TIMERS STILL AT WORK—An A-1 Skyraider, a prop-driven aircraft which first entered naval service in 1946, prepares to leave the deck of the USS Intrepid, itself a 23-year service veteran. Recently a flight of Skyraiders was pitted against four North Vietnamese MIG jets. The Skyraiders logged one confirmed kill, one probable and one damaged MIG.

120-Day Reporting Delay Offered to Army Enlistees

A delayed recruiting program, allowing enlistees as much as 120 days before reporting for active duty, has been established by Army to insure better use of processing and training facilities and personnel.

The program, similiar to those of the other services, applies when Army has exceeded its enlistment expectations for the month. Those desiring Regular Army enlistment may elect Reserve enlistment with a subsequent discharge to enlist in the Regular Army.

This program, it was explained, should prove helpful to those who find their preferred job specialty filled at the time of enlistment.

Officials emphasize the program was designed to control input into the active establishment and has no connection with the Reserve Enlistment Program.

Those enlisting under the program will be assigned a specified future reporting date. They will be held in Reserve status, but will receive no pay and will not participate in Reserve training.

Washington Memos

AIR STRIKES AGAINST North Vietnam's supply lines have three principal values in eyes of U.S. officials. They impose ceiling on infiltration to south, force North Vietnamese to recognize they have a price to pay for aggression, and boost morale of South Vietnamese people.

FIRST MANNED APOLLO launch, an Earth orbital flight to verify performance of spacecraft systems and crew operations, is scheduled for the first quarter of 1967, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Manned space flight officials had planned the launch late this year but they have decided to modify a unit in the spacecraft environmental control system (ECS) before the flight.

VSTOL RESEARCH SPONSORED by NASA indicates the vertical-short-takeoff-and-landing aircraft can lead to an operational short-haul commercial transport in the 1970's. Such an "air bus" will be imperative by 1985 when half the people of the United States will be living, according to projections, in super metropolitan areas at San Francisco-Los Angeles, Buffalo-Chicago, and Boston-New York-Washington. NASA said it is studying experimental VSTOL military aircraft to determine best operating procedures, automatic stabilization, and navigation aids needed.

NEW COMMANDER HAS been designated for Defense Fuel Supply Center, Cameron Station, Alexandria, Va., major field activity of Defense Supply Agency. RAdm. Fowler Ward Martin, Jr., SC, will assume duties Nov. 7. His previous assignment was Deputy Commander for Planning and Policy, Naval Supply Systems Command.

FLIGHT OF GEMINI 12 ends Gemini Manned space program. Fourteen experiments are scheduled during four-day flight. It will include rendezvous and docking with an Agena, docking practice, a tethered-vehicle station keeping exercise, and maneuvers using Agena primary propulsion system to change orbit.

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$14.6 MILLION MODIFICATION to previously-awarded contract for research and development of improved Pershing ground support equipment is being awarded to Martin-Marietta Corporation, Orlando, Fla. Martin-Marietta will also receive $1 million modification to previously awarded contract for exploratory development of selected Pershing components. Both contracts are being awarded by U. S. Army Missile Command, Huntsville, Ala.

DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING has announced that Dr. William R. Laidlaw, Vice President of Research and Engineering, Los Angeles Division of North American Aviation, Inc., has been selected as Special Assistant to DR&E Director, Dr. John S. Foster Jr. Dr. Laidlaw, who is expected to report in mid-November, is an expert in the aerodynamics and propulsion fields. His primary responsibility will be providing Dr. Foster with advice on selected programs in those fields.

IRAN'S CHIEF OF STAFF for Armed Forces Gen. Bahram Aryana is visiting various Army, Navy and Air Force headquarters until mid-November. The general's itinerary included stops at Tactical Air Command at Langley AFB, Va., the U.S. Army Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Ga., the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and STRIKE Command at MacDill AFB, Fla.

MARINE CORPS SELECTION board considering staff sergeants for promotion to gunnery sergeant is meeting now at Marine Corps Headquarters and is expected to remain in session eight weeks, roughly until Christmas week. Number authorized to be selected will be announced later, Marine Corps said.

FRANCES LANGFORD USO show leaves Hollywood Nov. 12 for 30 days to tour Vietnam, the Philippines and other stops in Southeast Asia. The singer is a veteran USO performer who entertained overseas servicemen during the early days of WW II and later during the Korean Conflict.

COUNTERINSURGENCY (COIN) COURSE at Air University will move to Hurlburt Field, Fla., as part of Special Air Warfare Center. First class will begin in January, with two-week courses held 12 times yearly. Student load is 150 per class—108 Air Force students and 42 from other services. Move reflects Tactical Air Command's two-year effort to consolidate counterinsurgency and special air warfare training in Center's Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field complex.

SANTA CLAUS HOUSE postmark is available again this year to children of military personnel and civilian employees of the armed forces. Air Force weathermen act as volunteer mailmen, receiving and remailing all of Santa's letters, complete with authentic North Pole, Alaska, postmark. Address is Detachment 1, 55th Weather Reconnaissance Sq., APO Seattle 98737. Any letter should be placed in a larger envelope. Deadline for mailing is Dec. 15 to insure Santa Claus House return before Christmas Day.

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Background for Commanders

ORGANIZING THE PEACE*

An enduring peace in which free societies can survive and flourish requires infinite patience and perseverance . . . and there can be no peace unless it is defended against those who are ready to use force to impose their will.

Our goal is a peaceful world in which all men live under governments and institutions of their own choice, and work together to further their common welfare. But we know that that goal cannot be achieved overnight.

Since the Second World War there have been, by one count, 379 instances of armed conflict, external or internal. And there have been at least 150 disputes or situations which so disturbed world order as to engage the concern of the international community.

Organizing the peace has meant containing these situations so that they would not explode into big wars. This has been done in various ways.

Peacekeeping Methods and Organization

Many disputes were settled or contained through quiet diplomatic intercourse between the parties, sometimes with the help of third parties.

Some have been handled by regional organizations. The peace machinery of the Western Hemisphere has been brought into play in 28 cases. In the Dominican Republic we supported the Organization of American States in assuring the Dominican people the right to choose their own government, thus averting a takeover by either the extreme right or the extreme left.

The fledgling Organization of African Unity has been effective in 4 or 5 disputes: notably in bringing about a ceasefire on the Algerian-Moroccan border in 1964.

Since the International Court of Justice was set up under the U.N. Charter, it has decided 35 contentious cases and rendered 13 advisory opinions.

In some 70 cases, the United Nations has become involved, either as principal peacemaker or in a complementary role.

Essential Elements

• In organizing a reliable peace, the first essential is to eliminate aggression—preferably by deterring it, but, if it occurs, by repelling it.

We must take care not to use more force than is necessary. Prudence dictates that we use enough force to achieve the essential purpose of deterring or repelling aggression.

• The organization of peace requires that, even while helping to repel aggression, we search incessantly for points of common interest and agreement with our adversaries. Above all, we have sought, and seek, agreements and arrangements that reduce the danger of a great war. And high among these are agreements and arrangements to control and reduce armaments.

• The organization of peace required that we help to restore the strength of the economically advanced nations of Europe, that we encourage them toward integration and that we try to work in close cooperation with them.

• The organization of peace requires that we try to make friends of our former enemies, that we encourage them to find a place in the Free World as democratic, self-respecting, independent nations.

• The organization of peace requires that the economically advanced nations assist the less advanced to modernize themselves. Over the long range there can be no security in a world in which a few nations are rich and many are poor.

• The organization of peace requires us to get on with the work-a-day affairs of men that need international cooperation. Those unsung activities comprise 80% or more of the business of the Department of State. We are active in more than 50 international agencies and take part annually in more than 600 multilateral international conferences. Most of that work is concerned with problems and arrangements that run from the control of disease to civil aviation, telecommunications, and the peaceful uses of the atom.

We are parties to more than 4,000 treaties and international agreements. Gradually there is growing what has aptly been called the "common law of mankind."

So we continue to move ahead with organizing the peace. And I have no doubt that the people of this great Republic will continue to do whatever may be necessary to defend and organize peace.

** Excerpts from address by Secretary of State Dean Rusk at George C. Marshall Memorial Dinner, Association of the U.S. Army*

October Savings Bond Sales Up

Series E and H United States Savings Bonds sales in October increased 10 percent above the amount sold in the same month last year, according to the Treasury Department. Total sales were $408 million compared to $369 million in October 1965.

Gain in public holdings of both series because of October sales netted another $98 million, putting total cash value of Savings Bonds outstanding at $49,987 million.

Air University School Program Temporarily Cut

Air University's professional school program will be temporarily curtailed during 1967 to make more officers available for field duty.

No student officers will be withdrawn from the current programs. This also applies to Army and Navy students, as well as those from other U. S. and allied governmental agencies.

All three of the Air Force's professional schools are affected—Squadron Officer School for lieutenants and captains; Air War College primarily for lieutenant colonels, and the Air Command and Staff School for senior captains and majors.

As of January, the Squadron Officer School will readjust its normal load to 225.

In July, Air War College's 220 normal load will be scaled down to 66, and the Air Command and Staff School adjusts its normal 500 student body to 150.

Rubber Reservoirs Store Petroleum in Vietnam

Two collapsible rubber-type reservoirs designed to replace bolted steel tanks for field use have been shipped to Vietnam for storing petroleum.

The reservoir, dubbed the world's largest for hasty storage, has a 10,000 barrel or 420,000 gallon capacity. It is fabricated from synthetic rubber coated on nylon cloth.

Despite a weight of 5,000 pounds, and a 184′ x 49′ size, the reservoir is reported easy to handle. It folds into a compact package 5′ in diameter and 14′ in length. Regular earth moving equipment provides a supporting pit, with the reservoir having a 12′ depth when filled to capacity.

The reservoir was developed by Army Mobility Equipment Command's Engineer Research and Development Laboratories, Ft. Belvoir, Va.

CREDENTIALS—Thomas W. Trice, vice president for Electric Operations of Baltimore Gas and Electric Co., receives credentials as Civilian Aide to Secretary of the Army for the State of Maryland. Lt. Gen. William F. Train, First U.S. Army commander, presents the certificate on behalf of Secretary of the Army, Stanley R. Resor.

Free Radio Messages to RVN Available Through Army MARS

Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) has announced that families of U. S. military and civilian personnel, whose sponsors are stationed in Vietnam, may send personal radio messages to the overseas member without charge.

Families are requested, however, to submit messages as early as possible due to additional requirements expected during the holiday season. Each message must be limited to 25 words or less. The recipient's complete address must be provided including FPO or APO.

Messages may be sent by contacting a station at any of the following locations: Ft. Devens, Mass.; Ft. George G. Meade, Md.; Ft. McPherson, Ga.; Ft. Sheridan, Ill.; The Presidio, San Francisco, Calif.; Ft. Sam Houston, Tex.; The Pentagon, Washington, D. C.; or Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii.

Army MARS operates under jurisdiction of Army's Office of the Chief of Communications-Electronics.

'Floating Supermarket' Returns from WestPac

Navy's first "floating supermarket," the fast combat support ship USS Sacramento, recently returned from a seven-month tour in the Western Pacific, including resupply of ships operating in waters off Vietnam.

Capt. Harold E. Shear, USN, the Sacramento's skipper, in evaluating the performance of the new type vessel, said, "Never in history have our operating forces been better supplied or in a more timely manner."

One of four ships of the type authorized, the Sacramento has been described as "a revolutionary development in the art of supporting combatant forces at sea."

She is said to be able to replace three different kinds of supply ships —an oiler, an ammunition ship and a refrigerator vessel with foodstuffs.

Sacramento uses the latest, most sophisticated palletized cargo handling system, credited with giving the two-year-old, 56,000-ton vessel a rapid, simultaneous, one-stop resupply system. With its 26-knot speed, the Sacramento can resupply a carrier even when launching air strikes or a cruiser when bombarding a ground target.

23 Universities Receive NASA Research Contracts

National Aeronautics and Space Administration has awarded new or supplementary research grants and contracts totalling $.3 million to some 23 universities.

"Response on Aerospace Vehicles to Gusts and Buffeting" is the project title on a new grant to the University of Kansas at Lawrence.

University of Illinois at Urbana received supplementary money to continue work on "Investigation of Properties of Human Sweat and Factors Affecting the Water Balance in Confined Spaces."

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